

aberdare has been done by Mr. Sessions (on whose farm *aberdare* was discovered, on account of its voice) and by the Start family, as well as by himself, and that it is intended to publish the results in due course.

A Swift, *Apus a. apus*, with twelve rectrices

by A. DE ROO

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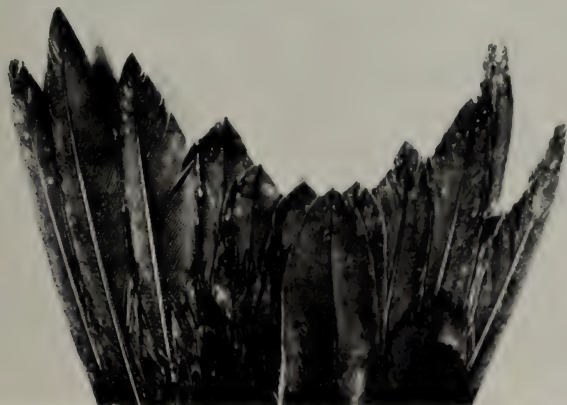
All Apodidae normally have ten rectrices and apparently no exceptions are described.

The present exception deals with an European Swift, *Apus a. apus* (L.) breeding at the colony of Overijse, 15 km. to the south-east of Brussels, Belgium. This bird was caught on its nest on 1st July, 1966 and, after close examination, released with ring Bruxelles X77344. Besides the normal ten tail feathers an additional outermost or 6th pair of rectrices was found, of the same general shape as that of the 5th pair, but 5 mm. shorter on the right side of the tail and 1.5 mm. longer on the left side. Detailed measurements of the twelve rectrices are given below.

Other characteristics: wing length, 180 mm.; tail, 74 mm.; weight at 19.20 hrs. 44.5 g. Primaries 1 to 9 of adult type but outermost or 10th primary conspicuously worn in both wings (for age-characteristics in *A. apus*, see De Roo, 1966). As a case of partial albinism, one single white body feather was also found in the middle of the rump.

The sex of the Swift is unknown but there is some evidence of male behaviour: its partner had a normal ten-feathered tail and so had the two young they reared from a C/3.

In 1967 this bird came back to its nest on 1st May while the partner arrived the day before. Examined on 7th May the tail again presented twelve fresh rectrices, the 6th pair being 5 and 9 mm. shorter than the 5th right and left rectrices respectively and also more rounded towards the tip (see photograph). Full measurements are given overleaf.



Photograph, Museum Tervuren

Aberrant twelve-feathered tail in *Apus a. apus*

Other characteristics: wing length, 182 mm.; tail, 73 mm.; weight at 21.00 hrs., 50.0 g.; at 08.30 hrs. next day, 47.5 g. Outermost primaries inconspicuously worn, thus moulted independently of the general descend-ent moult pattern and most probably in Sept.-Oct. 1966 before the renewal of the next large primaries 6 to 9. Again one single white body feather was noted on the middle of the rump and two others in a symmetrical arrange-ment under the axillaries. Dozens of pure white *filoplumae* were also found on the head and others of pale brown colour on the back. These hair-like structures with small terminal fanions (0.5 to 1 mm.) were probably over-looked in 1966 as they are rather concealed by the body feathers.

The bird was released on 8th May, 1967 and three eggs were laid on 17th, 19th and 21st May, respectively. Two young hatched on 8th June, the third on 9th June. At the present date (20th June 1967) the growing "pins" of the rectrices clearly show that all three the young will develop a normal ten-feathered tail.

Measurements: length difference (in mm.) of the rectrices as compared to the median pair scoring 0 mm.

	Left half of tail					Right half of tail						
	6	5	4	3	2	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
1/7/1966	+25	+23.5	+15	+8	+1.5	0	0	+1.5	+7	+14.5	+22.5	+17.5
7/5/1967	+14	+23	+15	+7	+1	0	0	+1	+6.5	+14.5	+22	+17

The present tail aberration, together with the degenerate body feathers and partial albinism, may be an atavistic manifestation due to in-breeding dependent on the high degree of fidelity to the nest-site in *A. apus*.

Reference:

De Roo, A. 1966. Age-characteristics in adult and subadult Swifts—*Apus a. apus* (L) —based on interrupted and delayed wing-moult. *Gerf.*, vol. LVI, fasc. 2, pp. 113-134.

The occurrence of Schiøler's Dunlin in south-eastern England; a race new to the British Isles

by JAMES M. HARRISON and JEFFERY G. HARRISON

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Introduction:

In 1922, Schiøler described as *Calidris alpina arctica*, the breeding population from north-east Greenland.

Salomonsen (1950) gives the breeding distribution of this high arctic form, as from Scoresby Sound north to northern Germanialand, possibly extending into southern Peary Land.

According to *The Handbook of British Birds* (1940) the only two races recognised as occurring in the British Isles are the Northern Dunlin, *Calidris a. alpina* and the Southern Dunlin, *C. a. schinzii*. These two races are similarly accepted by Bannerman (1960), who also includes the single record of the Eastern Siberian Dunlin, *C. a. sakhalina*. It is to be particularly noted that this author refers to the possibility that Schiøler's Dunlin could pass through the British Isles on migration.